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SUBJECT Number of PSP Militants in Cuba

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1. It has been reported by a source with contacts in the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP-Cuban Communist Party) that there are at present fewer than 20,000 persons who have received the PSP militant carnet, and this probably represents the Party's complete efforts to enroll its members as militants.
2. At the Santa Clara conference in August 1948, the PSP publicly announced its greatest error had been to admit persons into the Party who were not worthy of membership. Blas Roca, Secretary General of the PSP, stated at that time that many persons had been admitted as militants who should be expelled from the Party. Consequently, many were expelled, including old-line Party militants whose error had been to rebel against Roca. The militant carnet was taken from these persons, who were left as simple affiliates or sympathizers. The PSP announced that it would confer the carnet of militant upon only those who merit such a distinction. The separate carnet was established and once again set up two clear categories, militants and affiliates, within the Party.
3. As of 3 November 1948, Roca reported that the Party had 9924 militants, with the majority of them located in Habana, Las Villas, and Oriente Province.* During November 1947 when the PSP welcomed many new members, the Party claimed more than 30,000 militants. At the beginning of 1947, the PSP claimed it had 14,962 militants, which represented 9.8 per cent of its 152,000 affiliates.

*This figure should not be accepted as the total number of militants in the Party since the work of selecting militants was in process at that time. During this same period, 5577 affiliates were expelled from the Party but, according to Roca, the work of expulsion was still lagging.

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